

November 14, 2018

Contacts: Carol Scott <u>carol@newsanctuarynyc.org</u>, Ben Rosen <u>benrosensf@gmail.com</u> www.sanctuarycaravan.org

As Trump Doubles Down on Threats to Caravan, "Sanctuary Caravan" Mobilizes to Border

New Sanctuary Coalition today launched a nationwide campaign to mobilize United States citizens to join a Sanctuary Caravan headed to the Mexico/US border. The unprecedented effort is in opposition to the escalating calls for violent rejection of the migrants, and will bring together immigrants' rights groups, faith leaders, students, unions and individual activists across the country.

"We will be there to meet, witness,-and accompany people looking for safety and refuge," said NSC Executive Director Ravi Ragbir.

As part of this announcement, NSC released <u>this video</u>, launched a <u>website</u>, and shared a <u>sign</u> <u>up</u> for people to join.

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The Sanctuary Caravan will include a physical presence, led by faith leaders, at the border, and live social media coverage in an effort to prevent vigilante violence. NSC will work directly with migrant families and is fundraising bond money should anyone be detained at the border.

Over two dozen faith leaders from a variety of religious traditions have joined the effort and many will walk with the migrants to the border crossing. Pr. Eduardo Fabian Arias explained, "Exodus is not new. We are called by our faith traditions to welcome the stranger. We will answer that call."

President Trump suggested opening fire on migrants, and the xenophobic rhetoric from the White House has encouraged armed militias to flock to the border. Razor wire has been rolled out and new steel gates erected, though the migrants are still weeks away from reaching the border. While millions are seeing the midterms as a way to voice their dissent of Trump's draconian immigration policies, this humanitarian crisis calls on all people of conscience to mobilize in the hundreds of thousands in defense of those risking everything.

The current exodus stems primarily from the those fleeing violence in Honduras, the most dangerous place in the world that is not at war. The role of US foreign policy in Central America cannot be understated. The Sanctuary Caravan is an opportunity for US citizens to stand up for moral truth.





New Sanctuary Coalition springs from New York's faith-based and social justice communities and forms a unique family of citizens and immigrants, bound by a love of humanity and mutual respect. For over a decade NSC has created community and safety through its accompaniment program, pro se clinic, popular education series, and activism. NSC believes migration is a right, and the Sanctuary Caravan is a manifestation of their core values.

